

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 1, 2007

TO: All Members of the Delaware State Senate  
and House of Representatives

FROM: Ms. Daniese McMullin-Powell  
Chairperson  
State Council for Persons with Disabilities

RE: S.B. 65 [Child Care "Tiered" Subsidy]

The State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) has reviewed S.B. 65 which is ostensibly an alternative to S.B. 66. Like S.B. 66, it would require the Division of Social Services (DSS) to conduct a fair market rate every 2 years. It would then authorize tiered reimbursement rates as an incentive for providers to exceed minimum standards. DSS would adopt a "quality rating and improvement system" through regulations. Enhanced subsidies would be based on multiple factors: 1) qualifications and professional development; 2) learning environment and curriculum; 3) family and community partnerships; and 4) management and administration. The new subsidy system would be "phased in" over a six year period spanning FY 08 through FY 14. In Year 2, the bill contemplates "(m)andatory participation for all Preschool Special Education (619) programs and all child care centers with more than 90% purchase of care (POC) enrollment". The April 4 amendment defers the "phased in" implementation in the absence of an appropriation. Essentially, the timeline would begin upon initial appropriation.

As background, the State offers day care/preschool subsidies to low income families to promote early childhood education and parent employment. Historically, rates have been increased periodically based on fair market rate studies. SCPD endorses the proposed legislation since, in recent years, low reimbursement rates have prompted a reduction in the number of day cares which offer State "slots".

SCPD did want to note that since S.B. 65 and S.B. 66 amend the same sections of Title 31 Del.C. §392, these are truly alternative bills. If one is passed, the other could not pass without amendments.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact SCPD if you have any questions regarding our position or observations on the proposed legislation.

cc: The Honorable Ruth Ann Minner  
Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens  
Developmental Disabilities Council

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